



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
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Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

## U.S. EPA Makes Final Decision on Sheboygan River and Harbor Cleanup

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

May 2000

### This Update Will Tell You About

- The Lower PCB Sediment Cleanup Level
- Changes to the Final Cleanup
- Reducing Cleanup Costs
- How You Can Get More Information



Check out the  
**Sheboygan River  
Record of Decision**  
at

[http://www.epa.gov/region5/pdf/sheboygan\\_rod.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region5/pdf/sheboygan_rod.pdf)

### Location Map



## Introduction

This fact sheet provides information about the final cleanup plan, called a Record of Decision (ROD), finalized May 12, 2000, for the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued a proposed plan for the site in May 1999 that summarized the alternatives for cleaning up contaminated sediment and soil at the site.

New information and comments regarding dredging issues were received during the public comment period that ran through August 13, 1999. U.S. EPA modified its final cleanup plan based on the new information and comments. As a result of these proposed changes, the cleanup costs of the recommended alternative were reduced.

## Lowering the PCB Sediment Cleanup Level

The proposed cleanup plan identified a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) sediment cleanup level of 1 part per million (ppm), which was based on an analysis of human and ecological health risks. Human health risks were recalculated under an exposure scenario. An exposure scenario examines the type of individual who may be exposed to site contaminants; current and expected future land use; the frequency, duration, and magnitude of exposure; and the relative toxicity of various contaminants. The recalculation resulted in the selection of 0.5 ppm as the new sediment cleanup level.

## Changing the Final Cleanup Plan

Based on public comments and new information, significant changes were made by U.S. EPA. These changes primarily affected the Upper River and Inner Harbor.

- **Upper River** - The proposed plan called for dredging of contaminated sediment from the Tecumseh plant to the Waelderhaus Dam. Based on the cleanup level change, the ROD calls for an additional 2,500 cubic yards to be removed.
- **Middle River** - The proposed plan called for re-sampling of sediment and long-term monitoring. There is no significant change between the proposed plan and the ROD.
- **Lower River & Inner Harbor** - The proposed plan called for Lower River and Inner Harbor dredging of 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment between the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge and the Inner Harbor mouth. This dredging would have provided a water depth of 10 to 12 feet and would have created a buffer between the contaminated sediment and the maximum water depth. Based on public comments, an analysis of sediment erosion was done using information covering the last 20 years. This analysis showed that PCB-contaminated sediment between the Pennsylvania Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges, rather than between the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and Inner Harbor mouth, is more likely to be stirred up by flooding and boat traffic. This analysis led U.S. EPA to select a cleanup plan that includes shore-to-shore dredging of 2 feet of contaminated sediment from the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge to just past the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Additional dredging might be required in certain areas of the Inner Harbor.
- **Floodplain Soil** - The proposed plan called for the removal of contaminated soil. There is no significant change between the proposed plan and the ROD.
- **Ground Water** - The proposed plan called for addressing continuing sources of contamination in Sheboygan Falls near the Tecumseh plant. There is no significant change between the proposed plan and the ROD.

## Reducing the Cleanup Costs

Due to the proposed dredging changes, the cleanup cost is expected to be less than proposed. The cost is lower because less sediment would be dredged and different methods are being used to determine the cost of the alternatives. The cost of the Upper River cleanup was reduced from \$31.4 million to \$23.8 million. The cost of the Lower River and Inner Harbor cleanup was reduced from \$26.9 million to \$10 million.

Costs associated with the Middle River, Floodplain Soil, and Ground-water cleanups have only slight reductions. The total cleanup cost was reduced from nearly \$66 million to approximately \$41 million.

## For More Information

Anyone interested in learning more about the Sheboygan River and Harbor site cleanup, or the Superfund process in general, is encouraged to review documents in the information repositories located at the Mead Public Library, 710 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and the Sheboygan City Hall, 828 Center Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at the Mead Public Library and at the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago. For further information about the Sheboygan River and Harbor site, please contact:

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Susan Pastor

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